THE REPORTER

Vol. V December, 1946 No. 4

No January Drafting

No call for the induction of men under Selective Service System will be made for the month of January, 1947, the War Department has announced.

Enlistments at the present time tally about 20,000 per month, but about 40,000 volunteers are needed each month to keep the Army up to required strength, it is claimed. Despite that heavy voluntary enlistments suffered, in the words of the War Department, "an abrupt and continuing reduction," the decision was reached to extend the draft holiday through January. It is admitted that the situation as of December 31, 1946, when drafting was to have been resumed, cannot, be determined at this time "due to the presence of certain variable factors such as the effect of discharge criteria being applied to reduce the size of the Army in accordance with existing law."

Customarily, the results obtained by the recruiting service in keeping the Army up to strength largely ascertains whether there are draft calls. Because it is known that the draftee is the most expensive soldier ever used, the Army is now endeavoring to obtain all the volunteers it can in an effort to avoid asking Congress to extend the draft. Draftees enter the service for only eighteen months and after training and transportation overseas spend only about half of that time on actual duty.

It has not yet been determined as to whether the War Department will ask Congress to extend the Selective Service Act beyond its present expiration date, March 31, 1947, and it will probably be sometime in January before a decision can be made as to resuming the draft in February.

CPS Lore

While on project work at the Menmonite administered, Hagerstown, Md., CPS Camp, assigneees chanced to notice a well-guarded fence with working men nearby. Thinking the men to be POWs, the CPS men edged their work and their way toward the fence and began a simulated conversation between themselves in an effort to attract attention and thus possibly begin a conversation.

It was a distinguished occasion when the conversation reached high and loud proportions as the assignees "nonchalantly" continued a jargoned conversation in a reasonable facsimile of jargoned German, such as is possible with a Pennsylvania-Dutch background.

After a reasonable delay of mapped-out strategy, contact, via underground, clairvoyance or some more obvious method, was made with the other working men.

Replied the guarded men, "We are prisoners, but not POWs. We thought that you are POWs!"

Peace-Time Conscription

Should Congress approve of peacetime conscription, the War Department has a plan whereby selection and registration of trainees for Universal Military Training would be in much the same manner as men are now processed for military service.

Under the revised UMT plan, according to *Selective Service*, "trainees would remain civilians and would not be available for combat, or other operational requirements, except in an emergency delared by Congress. The trainees would not be subject to the Articles of War, but would be governed by a special Code of Conduct. They would be in 'training,' not in 'service'."

It is made clear that all phases of processing up to actual induction would be under control of a civilian agency, and there should be a "minimum disruption with normal educational and economic processes consistent with efficient administration of the program." The age of eighteen is set as the minimum age of enrollment, although voluntary enrollment at the age of seventeen with parental consent would be allowed. Provision is made for deferment until the age of twenty for high school work.

Subject to quota limitations and standards of selection, after the first six months of intensive training in military and technical specialties, the trainee may elect one of the listed options in lieu of the second six month's training.

"(1) To enlist in the National Guard; (2) to enlist in a Class 'A' Organized Reserve Corps unit; (3) to enlist in the Enlisted Reserve Corps and attend a college ROTC with Government aid, agreeing to accept a Reserve commission, if offered, and serve on active duty; (4) enlist in the Enlisted Reserve Corps and attend a technical school with Government aid, agreeing to serve in a component of the Army upon completion of course; (5) enlist in the Enlisted Reserve Corps and attend a technical school; (6) enter a Service Academy; or (7) enlist in the Regular Army."

Survey of Registrants

Effective December 2, 1946, local draft boards were requested by Selective Service System to take no classifications actions until the completion of an inventorial system on each registrant, with classification actions to be resumed not later than December 20, 1946, eighteen days later. During this interim all local boards were to catalog the status and classification of each registrant as of December 2.

This inventorial process was undertaken in order that the Selective Service System may be in a position of readiness to fill such calls as may be placed upon it beginning the new year, and to otherwise fulfill its obligations. The survey will place the local board records in a state of readiness for any action anticipated and thus will provide data vital for the welfare of our Nation and democratic government throughout the world, it is claimed. It is felt that "the military leaders must have it to make their recommendations, the President and his Cabinet must have it for intelligent consideration of such recommendations, and Congress must have it for authoritative guidance in making its decisions."

A summary card on each registrant is to be accomplished after the completion of the inventory. This summary card file will contain up-to-date information on each registrant under 45 years of age.

CPS and Its Future

Continuation of the draft and the possibility that some form of universal military training will be enacted has made the CPS future of vital interest in this post-war era. With a bare 205 men, 145 under the Mennonites, 34 under the Brethren and 26 under the government, in CPS camps, and the possibility of continued conscription, *The Reporter* awaits action of the next convening Congress. No discharges, except for emergencies, are scheduled until June, 1947.

Amnesty Drive Continues

In time of war some conscientious objectors pose a dilemma both for themselves and for the nation. They are caught between their uncompromising consciences and an uncompromising government, and in this situation they await action of the government, hoping that religious liberty will be restored. Such is the case of 1500 war objectors who now find themselves in this predicament despite the cessation of hositilities. It is for these men that amnesty is sought for by the many groups petitioning the United States government to release all war objectors, thereby restoring full civil privileges to the men.

"Amnesty," which is simply the plural word for "pardon," is of varied significance in the different states. Just as the individual states have the privileges of regulating the age of voters and setting qualifications for certain other Federal privileges or committments, so does the individual state regulate the parole provisions set for their ex-convicts.

Any war objector who has been sentenced to prison and is out on parole is now an ex-convict and thereby carries an "ex-con" stymie upon his shoulders. This handicap may mean filing monthly reports, obtaining permission to marry, travel, change jobs or addresses, denial of passports, refusal of permission to hold a public office, and the meeting of many similar possible qualifications. This explains the amnesty drive which, although generally misunderstood, is in-

(*Concluded on page 3*)

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Letter

The County Emergency Farm Labor office, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, sent a letter to Ted Klopfenstein, Area Supervisor of Mennonite CPS men on Detached Farm Service, part of which reads as follows:

I wish to thank you for the information and also express my appreciation for the fine cooperation your organization has given us during the entire period when young men from this organization were working for farmers in Allegheny County. It has been a pleasure to work with you, I am sure; and I wish to inform you that these young men have done a fine job in Allegheny County and have been of inestimable value to the men for whom they worked.

Thank you again for our very pleasant relations during the emergency years.

E. C. CARTER.

Discharges

The following men have been discharged or authorized for discharge December 10, 1946:

Bartow, Florida: Mervin S. Kreider, Henry M Forry, Reuben R. Byler, James V. Miller, Mahlon C. Wyse, Clifford M. St. John, Lloyd D. Rychener, Dan E. Byler, Floyd E. Miller, Mahlon H. Palmer, Monroe Miller, Vernon A. Good, Paul G. Hartman, Henry B. Leaman, Evan A. Dirksen, George W. Kling David S. Brenneman, LeRoy M. Stoltzfus, Alvin L. Kurtz, Freeman Gingerich.

Beltsville, Md.: Clarence B. Brubaker, Jay H. Charles, Emory J. Good, Simon J. Tice, Denver B. Rupp, Donald R. Weaver, John S. Gingerich.

Bowie, Md.: Carl M. Miller, Joseph H. Martin, Gerald W. Heck, Harry B. Nell, Charles L. Vichland, Donald L. Burkholder, Samuel G. Meyer, Jr., Kyle A. Vest, Roy Stuckey, Donald G. Beachler, Wayne E. Keltner, Paul W. Kennel, Robert E. Workman, Ervin K. Hylton, Leanard J. Vogt, Walter C. Guthrie, Jr., Donald E. Potter Laban Peachey, Raymon L. Harmon, Scott E. Hess, Marvin D. Byler, Donald E. Miller, Marion A. Hartman, Evan E. Brenneman, Ralph J. Strike, Jay M. Good, Kenneth E. Weimer, Kenneth L. West Max A. Eikenberry, Felix B. Bailey, John M. Drum, Orie O. Schrock, Marvin D. Curtis, Paul R. Hartman, Wayne J. Liechty Paul D. Hertzler, Max J. Bowser, Roy A. Mast, Kenneth E. Fogelsanger, George W. Harvey, Rollie M. Helstern, Walter H. Neave, Richard L. Groff, Charles E. Anderson, Raymond A. Ewy, Roy W. Henard, Wayne D. Kempf, Virgil L. Loucks, Charles Goss, Jr., Russell C. Young, Raymond K. Hartman Leon M. Thomas, Clifford W. Brenneman, Menno Fast, Everett L. Edwards, Jr., Norman D. Zilmer, John R. Smucker, Russell C. Moore, Donald Whiriedge, Crist E. Slabaugh, Arlie E. Guyer, George W. Rexrode, Donald G. Miller, Roscoe L. Swank, John O. Miller, John D. Lefever, Melvin C. Dellinger, Hayes W. Anthony, Leo L. Miller, John S. Kauffman, Levi L. Hershberger, Daniel H. Bender, Harold O. Miller, Wilson B. Lutz, Wendell W. Yohe, John D. Hostetler, Ezra C. Brent, Owen L. Shankster, William E. Anderson, Laverne D. Meador, Paul E. Frazier, Truman D. Deimler, Albert P. Rogers, Russell N. Johnson, Vernon W. Heatwole, Harry A. Cooper Gilbert R. Smeiska, John L. Stutaman, Wilbur W. Miller.

Camino, Calif.: Levi V. Borntrager, Mearl Ramer, Marvin A. Schmidt, Raymond L. Tyson, Merl H. Tyson, William H. Miller, Jr., Elmer Nightengale, Jake J. Hofer, Abe S. Loewen, Reinhold O. Gunderman, Hubert L. Brubaker, Curtis J. Koehn, D. John Schwartz, Luke E. Robertson, Albert K. Megehee, Sam Boehs, Jr., Elam Bontrager, Herbert L. Miller, Jake A. Steingard, Gerald P. Mininger, Ward B. Rumble, Gerald L. Koehn, David W. Toews, Wilbur Koehn, Milbert Dais, Victor Garber, Orval L. Mastre, Eldon K. David, Eddie A. Garver, Daniel B. Schmidt, John R. Hofer, Leland W. Giesel, Elmer Classen, Joe A. Kauffman, Lester V. Dick, Cleon B. Graber, Mike J. Waldner, Leland C. Rediger, Donald J. Preheim, Carmi A. Olfert, Isaac Kulp, Marvin E. Mast, Edgar Nissley Geib, Walter I. Hartman, Jonas J. Miller, Clarence E. Root, Robert L. Weaver, Henry Reimche, Jr., William W. Duncan, Donald T. King, Henry A. Miller, Eugene D. Rohrer, Walter R. Wenger, Monroe Ramer, George D. Roth, Fred S. Gnagey, William S. Mast, James M. Troyer, Loyd W. Jantz, A. D. Borntrager.

Chicago, Ill.: Paul G. Martinson, Allen W. Himes.

Durham, N. C.: Lloyd H. Hampton, John R. Chittum, John C. Raiford.

Gatlinburg, Tenn.: Donald N. Rader, Warren D. Baumann, Walter H. Sangree, Murray Leon Craig, Frederick M. Siebert, Robert Sokol, Walter R. Gesell, Elwood F. Rober, Leo E. Treece, Marlor C. Sprinkle, Melvin W. Hackbarth, David H. Gooch, Robert W. Gundlach, Vincent Mazzotta.

Gulfport, Miss.: Melvin J. Stewart, Chester E. Slagell, Dwight M. Wiebe, David R. Hostetter, Eldon L. Suter, Robert D. Zook, Carroll J. Waltner, Robert R. Horst, Eldo B. Buller, Orlando J. Friesen, Lawrence J. Miller.

Lincoln, Neb.: Hilbert J. Graber, John M. Hofer, Ervin H. Walnter, John M. Yoder, Vernon M. Zerger, Marvin Stucky, Tobias L. Wedel, Delbert H. Dick, Delbert Kaufman, Glendon F. Kramer, Marvin J. Miller, Henry Preheim, Jr., Milford A. Weaver, Clinton Koehn, Delmar R. Saner, Dale E. Hochstetler, Ellis M. Schwartzendruber, Harold T. Miller, Jacob Chupp, Wilmer D. Hoststetler, Paul C. Bachman, George D. Rempel, George J. Hofer, Harold E. Miller, Bernhard B. Reimer, Nathan O. Stutzman, Elmer Ensz, Willard G. Gehring, Sam Wollmann, Eldo P. Wiens, John E. Eichelberger, Wilbert H. Schmidt, Edward J. Yoder, John W. Hofer, Dale Swartzendruber, Marvin L. Kinsinger, Ellis W. Leichty.

Livermore, Calif.: Walter W. Slagell, Raymond G. Harder, Roy A. Franz, Gideon Regier, Robert W. Jantzi, Arthur J. Penner, Raymond E. Frye, Allen E. Quiring, Millerd J. Thiessen, Elmer D. Wiens, Eldo R. Regehr, Melvin A. Yoder, Wilbert J. Ratzloff, Leonard K. Friesen, Elmer K. Friesen, Willard P. Kennel.

Marlboro, N. J.: Nevin B. Lehman, Emil L. Goering, Nick A. Isaac, Moses Glanzer, Eugene D. Graber, Allen A. Gingerich.

Minersville, Calif.: Andrew J. Nazaroff, William M. Bartholomew, Floyd F. Cook, Leon L. Brown, Wayne L. Emmons, Ivan E. Taege, Jack A. Kochergen, John F. Samarin, Charles W. Fountain, Charles R. Cason, Gobert L. Macbeth.

Powellsville, Md.: Chester W. Gable, Milo E. Kropf, Henry J. Lengacher, Enos Steury, Menno J. Witmer, Willis E. Miller, Clarence J. Holaway, Roy Albrecht, Dale E. Short, William J. Wenger, Leander Miller, Dan J. Hershberger, Jake M. Leslein, Christian M. Schwartz, Joseph Stoll, Henry J. Shetler, Joseph L. Lengacher, Lowell E. Weaver, Arvan E. Weaver, Harvey M. Brubaker, Noah E. Hostetler, Samuel J. Hochstetler, John R. Lehman, Joe D. Erb, Lloyd D. Kreider, Pearl D. Stutzman, Harold F. Hartman, Loren Steckley, Paul W. Baker, Crist V. Schlabach, Henry E. Byler, Warren I. Rohrer, Daniel J. Keim, Jay E. Denlinger, John B. Horst, Willis D. Rohrer, Joseph D. Whetzel, Dan T. Birdsong, Levi E. Miller, Richard H. Clark, Richard W. Burkhart, Charles E. Keagy, Marvin E. Harnish, Everett T. Bittinger, Forrest W. Essick, Bernard M. Mazelin, John P. Showalter, Chester H. Sollenberger, Albert L. Miller, Rodney P. Heishman, Homer A. Coblentz, Levi D. Hershberger, Loyal W. Kratzer, Oren E. Heatwole, John E. Huber, Guy W. Livengood, Edwin L. Stoops, Clarence M. Groff, Paul M. Livingood, John E. Llewellyn, Benjamin F. Lehman, Carl E. Mumaw, Joe M. Gingerich, Daniel M. Hershberger, Alvin Byler, Levi B. Troyer, Wilfred G. Nussbaum, Paul Miller, Levi S. Miller, Norman L. Baker, Ephriam B. Shank, Mark C. Brubaker, Joseph D. Short, Glen T. Blauch, Millard A. Benner, Marvin E. Showalter, Lavon O. Blosser, Virgil L. Blosser.

Puerto Rico: Robert C. Stanley, Byron C. Shearer, Willard C. Wickline, Howard F. Long, Paul A. Tiessen, Kenneth R. Schmidt.

Roseburg, Oreg.: Arthur L. Klassen, James R. Unruh, Ersa Dais, Sterling L. Roth, Donald R. Emmert, Charles A. Dugger Perry G. Schrock, Joseph E. Stutzman, Willard C. Nofziger, Mahlon V. Engle, Howard J. Preheim, Herman Stucky, Amos Nisly, James J. Frey, Lauren W. Enns.

Welfare Island, N. Y.: Folger D. Hunt, Fred E. Rogers, Prince E. Frazier, Oliver J. Sides, Norman D. Sexton, Theodore G. Harkey, David T. Guthrie, Calvin D. Hensell.

All Other Discharges Preceding December 10:

Bartow, Florida: John M. Yoder.

Beltsville, Md.: Arthur R. Shoup.

Bowie, Md.: David B. Kruger, George W. Jarrett, David H. Bayer, Kenneth W. Rawson, Emery J. Helmuth, Ammon S. Shetler, Clair S. Bauman, Merle C. Winters, James E. Rowe.

Camino, Calif.: Raymond F. Wiebe, Merle J. Mohler, Ralph L. Sisk.

Gatlinburg, Tenn.: Joseph W. Letson, William H. Forthman, William A. Maxwell, Daniel N. Hoffman.

Gulfport, Miss.: Harold G. Kreider.

Lincoln, Nebr.: Owen J. Somers, Peter Hofer, Howard S. Yost, Harry H. Ratzlaff, Harry D. Wedel, Isaiah C. Witmer, Joseph A. Beachy, Jean W. Suderman, David Warkentin, Joseph Miller.

Maine, Dairy Testing Unit: Preston E. Moyers.

Marlboro, N. J.: Leo J. Miller, Emil W. Schlabaugh.

Minersville, California: Raymond G. Schumacher, Karl H. Schug, Angel Madero, Jr., Richard W. Flagg.

New York, N. Y. (N. Y. Hosp't.): Stanley C. Wright.

Powellsville, Md.: Lester H. Diller, Daniel S. Wenger, Arthur C. Graber, Richard D. Ours, Joseph M. Hostetler, Jesse Z. Byler, Alton V. Thomas, Gideon J. Kurtz.

Roseburg, Oregon: Ferdinand J. Wipf, Elias Stahl.

Welfare Island, N. Y.: James D. Murray, Chester A. Tucker, Jr., Sydney Anderson, Donald W. Diffenderfer.

C. P. S. Reserve, Philipian Island Relief Unit 34 DS: Landon H. Charles.

Discharge Summary

(From 9-21-45 to 12-10-46)

Hardship	
Dependency	139
Farm	41
Medical	163
National Health, Interest	33
Demobilization, 1945	1,516
Demobilization, 1946	6,330
CPS UNRRA Reserve	229
Total Release	8,451
Remaining in CPS	205

Mennonite Community

The Mennonite Community, a well-edited, smooth-paper, bi-monthly publication printed at Scottdale, Pennsylvania, made its initial appearance this week. The periodical, patterned after *Life*, popular weekly pictorial magazine, is replete with illustrations, many of them large pictures covering an entire page, picturing the farming life, business operations and daily living of Mennonites.

Historians, sociologists and theologians long have been amazed at the unusual concept of communal living which the Mennonites have followed since their origin 400 years ago. *The Mennonite Community* editor, Grant M. Stoltzfus, is ably presenting this "Mennonite way of life," and says the purpose of the magazine "is to interpret the basic problems that arise out of ordinary everyday living," and that "we have the opportunity to advance the cause of Christ by Christian living as well as by Christian teaching."

Brethren Visit

As a part of the itinerary covering the program of the Conference of District Brethren Service Representatives, held at New Windsor, Maryland, about 50 Church of the Brethren leaders visited the NSBRO offices on December 4.

The men spent the morning interviewing their Congressmen and Senators. Following a visit to NSBRO offices, they visited the Department of Agriculture, interviewed Mr. Niles, Secretary to President Truman, and then made a call on "The National Council for the Prevention of War" office. Next the UNRRA offices were visited, followed by a meeting with the "Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

California vs COs

The case of Orval Etter, CO and member in good standing of the Bar of Oregon, draws interest as he continues his efforts to obtain admittance to the Bar of California He was first refused admission on the grounds that "the applicant has failed to meet the burden of showing that he is possessed of good moral character." The decision against Etter was based further "on the opinion of the Committee that your activities during the war in advocating and urging, and in helping others to advocate and urge, non-cooperation and refusal to aid in the war effort of the United States, and your present belief in such matters, are inconsistent with the oath required of a member of the Bar of this State that "he support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California . . ." The Bar of California requires an oath but there is no provision in the State Constitution which requires service in the Militia.

The court's decision is of interest to COs because the surrender of one's constitutional rights cannot be made a condition to the holding of a public office. Constitutional rights specifically grant religious freedom and if this freedom must be surrendered, it would mean, among other restrictions, that COs would be barred from such licensed professions as law, medicine, dentistry, accounting, Civil Service employment, and school teaching. Carried to the extreme, it would mean that COs would be barred from operating businesses, farming, driving cars or performing any act which requires State regulation or permission. An American Civil Liberties Union letter written to the Committee of Bar Examiners says that "If Mr. Etter's application is denied because of his pacifist views, it will be an invitation to a witch-hunt against the members of such historic peace churches as the Quakers, Mennonites, Brethren and Molokans, who are already engaged in the pratice of law in this State."

The State of California in 1942 declared that a bona fide claim as a CO under the Selective Service Act does not justify revocation of a school teacher's credentials. In the 1945 Session of the State Legislature the Legislative Counsel declared as unconstitutional efforts to exclude from public positions pacifists who had claimed exemption from military service during World War II. It was claimed the Act would be "discriminatory as to persons on the sole basis of a religious belief." A revised bill with the question, "If necessary, are you willing to take up arms in defense of the United States?", was vetoed by the California governor because it would hold up to public scorn persons who merely exercised their constitutional and statutory rights. The veto was upheld.

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A Hanging Did Not Finish the Job

By DESMOND W. BITTINGER

An editorial which appeared in the *Gospel Messenger*, a publication of the Church of the Brethren, a church body which, since its origin 200 years ago, has consistently refused to sanction war, but instead preaches a message of love toward Christ, and of next importance, a message of love toward fellowmen.

As I looked at the death pictures of the ten leading Nazis who were hanged recently and at the picture of John Woods, who hanged them, I could not keep myself from thinking that this did not represent much of an achievement. John Woods had remained in Europe extra time in order to hang these people who had different ideas and beliefs from those which he had. This brought to more than 350 the number of people like that who he has hanged in recent years. Now that these are dead he feels that he can return safely to America; that a telling blow at the Nazi philosophy has been struck. But I cannot keep from wondering about it.

The following are some evidences that the Nazi philosophy which has its rootages far back in the history of developing civilization has not yet been seriously attacked.

1. A conductor on the Chicago "L" said to me recently, "We should make more and more atomic bombs and have them ready to drop at a moment's notice on any city in the world just as soon as we learn that that city will not play our way." It would be futile and useless to hang that conductor; that wouldn't help him or destroy his wicked and un-American idea. But nazism will not be ended in the earth until that idea has had its Nuremberg and likewise comes to a deserved end. Sgt. Woods cannot feel that Nazism is hanged until such an idea is likewise dead; what he did in Germany really missed that point.

2. A national commander of the American Legion said recently, "We should drop an atomic bomb on Moscow now." He did not say why; it was only that he did not like the Russians. Such an idea also calls for the attention of Justice Jackson and Sgt. Woods.

3. An Elgin, Ill., citizen said, "Let us not only keep all the Jews out of America, but let us kick out all who are already here." The man who said it did not need hanging; he needed help. But his idea was as Nazi as some of Hitler's best.

4. A Sunday-school teacher said, "Of course I believe the Negro should have a chance to get some religion; it won't hurt him any. But for goodness' sake, quit talking about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. That has nothing to do with religion or with Negroes. Those of you who talk such things are radicals and ought to be put in jail or shot." This good brother also needed a lot of loving help.

No, Nazism cannot be ended by hanging ten men in Germany, or even 350 or even 70,000. Rather, the unhelpful ideas which have grown out of it must be changed by love, conversion, and education in America, Germany, Russia, Asia and all over the world.

AMNESTY—(*Continued from page* 1)

tended not for the present imprisoned men only, but for all COs and draft violators who were once sentenced and may even have been paroled into C.P.S. Amnesty, therefore would be retroactive.

The number of war objectors in prison as of December 9, 1946, stands as 47 COs, 455 Jehovah Witnesses and 985 draft violators, total 1487. The number paroled of all three classifications totals about 5000. The amnesty drive is in behalf of all three groups because, as certain amnesty promulgators claim, one cannot determine by snap judgment the sincerity of the draft violators. When considerations of sincerity are introduced into the question of amnesty there is a reintroduction of the whole train of problems involved in the judging and evaluating of a man's mind or character. Further, it was made quite easy for men to get paroled into the Army, and therefore it is not a simple matter to distinguish an imprisoned objector as either a CO or a draft violator.

It is obvious that certain draft violators were imprisoned simply because the judges and prosecuting officials were unacquainted with the privileges set up by Selective Service and thereby denied the sentenced men their constitutional rights. Ex-CPS men well recall of meeting various individuals who frequently reiterated their expression of surprise which they felt when upon entering a CPS base camp they discovered that there are thousands of individuals designated as COs and that there are three church bodies in particular, the Mennonites, Brethren and the Friends who have taught abstinence from war for decades, generations, in fact, hundreds of years.

The War and Navy Departments announced on December 15 that 1760 prisoners would be rewarded for good conduct with clemency, which will enable them to spend Christmas at their homes as free men. This Christmas clemency action, in which the Army released 1345 general prisoners on December 16, and the Navy 425 on December 17, is in addition to post-war clemency programs under which all prisoners serving sentences imposed during the war have had the benefit of review for the purpose of correcting injustices and inconsistencies of administration resulting from abnormal war-time conditions. No explanations of the offenses committed were offered, except that all sentences so commuted would have expired early in 1947.

JWs Not COs

In the words of the *Awake* magazine, periodical of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Inc., Jehovah Witnesses are neither conscientious objectors nor pacifists. Imprisoned JWs, representing about 4000 of the total of draft violators arrested, are "ordained ministers of Jehovah God, claiming their neutrality and exemption from service like ministers of religion, to preach to the people."

The article states that COs base their refusal to participate in war "on a variety of religious, political, social and academic grounds," and make no claim "to statutory exemption by reason of a ministerial status such as that rightfully claimed by Jehovah's witnesses because of their contract relationship with Almighty God which obligates them to obey Him exclusively by publicizing, uninterruptedly, in peacetime and in wartime, His kingdom, among the people." JWs, it is asserted, have not taken their stand to evade training and service under the Selective Service Act, but rather they are "found in this predicament for righteous' sake," and no man or nation has the right to make them break their convanent with Jehovah.

In behalf of their separate amnesty drive, representatives of the JW group procured a personal interview with Pres. Truman. The committee included a lawyer and political friend of Pres. Truman and a man who had served as an ammunition officer under Capt. Harry S. Truman in World War I.

Upon viewing their resolution, Pres. Truman said, according to *Awake*, "that he had been a soldier, was a 'fighting man' and did not have any use for a man who would not fight for and protect his country," but "that in spite of that he would see that those convicted got a fair consideration and just decision." Pres. Truman was told that "hundreds of draft boards that had received the evidence submitted to them had classified Jehovah Witnesses as ministers, exempting many thousands of them from training and service."

Activity in Holland

A Rotterdam CO placed an advertisement in two of the cities newspapers protesting the sending of Dutch young people, who are called up now for their first military training, to Indonesia, and within four days received heaps of letters, nearly 500 people offering help, asking for advice, and expressing their joy that somebody had taken such an initiative.

Activity is now directed toward the Ministry of War because it is claimed the Dutch constitution permits the sending of Volunteer troops only to the colonies. Over eight thousand signatures from Rotterdam attest to the seriousness of the Dutch people in their efforts to prevent the sending of troops abroad. At the time the aforementioned information was obtained, a large meeting of the type held in Amsterdam, where 20,000 people passed a firm resolution not to fight against the Indonesians, was planned for Rotterdam.

From the Papers

From an article entitled "Food for Brains" in the San Francisco, Calif., Sh NS:

The fact that food seriousy effects intelligence was pretty well established in an experiment conducted with conscientious objectors who were given the same caloric equivalent as the European diet of last summer. The same men who had been reading Aristotle began to read only the comic strips and finally they arrived at the point where they were interested in reading nothing.

From an editorial on "Justice to Conscientious Objectors" appearring in the Radford, Va., News Journal:

According to repeated charges which, so far as we have been able to discover, have not been officially disproved or even denied, we have flagrantly violated terms of the Selective Service Act in dealing with these conscientious objectors.

These charges include placing of military men instead of civilians in charge of conscientious objector camps, charging men in the camps for subsistence instead of paying them as prescribed by law, and holding men when they are entitled to release.

The conscientious objector problem is a difficult one, but the public's attitude on this matter in World War II was a tremendous improvement over that of the other world conflict. In the main, injustices appear to have stemmed from official misconduct or stupidity rather than from legislative provision or from public intolerance.

We cannot excuse such violations of human rights by saying the public was uninformed. The public has not been wholly uninformed and it has displayed no great urge to set things right. It is not too late for correction of some of these injustices; and it is high time we were attending to the matter.

From the Madison, Wisc. Capital Times:

It ill behooves the government of the United States and the chauvinistic tub thumpers in this country to continue railing at the denial of civil rights by other governments while we here continue the wretched treatment we are according the conscientious objectors of World War II . . . It apparently is not enough that we continue to mistreat these people who are guilty of nothing more than a passionate allegiance to the principles which Christ gave the world. The government has launched prosecutions of those in CO camps who had the courage and good sense to object to the high-handed methods used in those camps by the brass hats. These prosecutions have begun at a time when the government should be busying itself with an investigation of how this military caste wormed its way into the administration of Civilian Public Service camps. The Selective Service Act specifically provides that these camps should be under civilian direction. . . .

An editorial entitled "What Next" referring to the picketing of the White House by 70 ministers appeared in the Cadillac, Mich. News:

Some of the preachers of America made front pages of daily newspapers this week—and how?

When preachers who are supposed to stand for all that is best in life, and life hereafter, get behind some of America's "yellow" citizens and stand in picket lines—well just what respect can they expect from Christians? No, not all of the conscientious objectors were "yellow" by all means but the very fact that the federal government took citizenship rights away from those they proved to be traitors to their government during time of war should convince anyone of their guilt.

The war is over but we should not soon forget those who proved to be "yellow" and got out of protecting their country, and further, preachers who stand in picket lines should not forget the fact that they have done an injustice to the churches whose pulpits they fill.

From an article appearing in the New York PM urging Amnesty for CO's and written by columnist Albert Deutsch:

You don't have to agree with the stand of conscientious objectors during the late war to bear witness to the fact that they were, and still are, shabbily treated and even persecuted as a group . . . Some day a less prejudiced and more grateful generation will take full account of the valuable contributions to progress made by large sections of these conscientious objectors in wartime. Hundreds of them gladly volunteered to serve as human guinea pigs to medical scientists grappling with problems of war diseases. The discovery of new anti-malarial drugs that saved thousands of American soldiers from the disease was accelerated largely through the cooperation of these CO volunteers. Many submitted to having virulent disease germs injected into their veins to test new cures. Many lived for weeks and months, without complaint, on starvation diets to test new nutritional theories and techniques. Thousands labored, without pay, in useful and often nasty jobs.

The complete collapse of our mental hospital system during the war emergency was prevented largely by the recruitment of thousands of young conscientious objectors as ward attendants. Many of these youngsters labored with Christ-like love in tending the most neglected of humankind's brethren. Their agitation for improving conditions they witnessed at first hand, together with their amazingly extensive and careful documentation of "asylum horrors" was a vital factor in creating the current movement for mental hospital reform.

I came into contact with a large number of these young COs working as mental hospital attendants. I have no hesitation in saying that I found them, with a few exceptions, the salt of the earth. They had lofty ideals and the guts to suffer in unyielding pursuit of those ideals. Many went to prison rather than accept compromised freedom. These idealists, even when they're wrong, are a leaven in any society.

From a crusading editorial entitled "For Christmas Amnesty" in the New York Times:

It is in accordance with examples set by nine Presidents of the United States, beginning with George Washington in 1795. The war is over. There can be no harm in generosity now toward those whose consciences forbade their taking part in it.

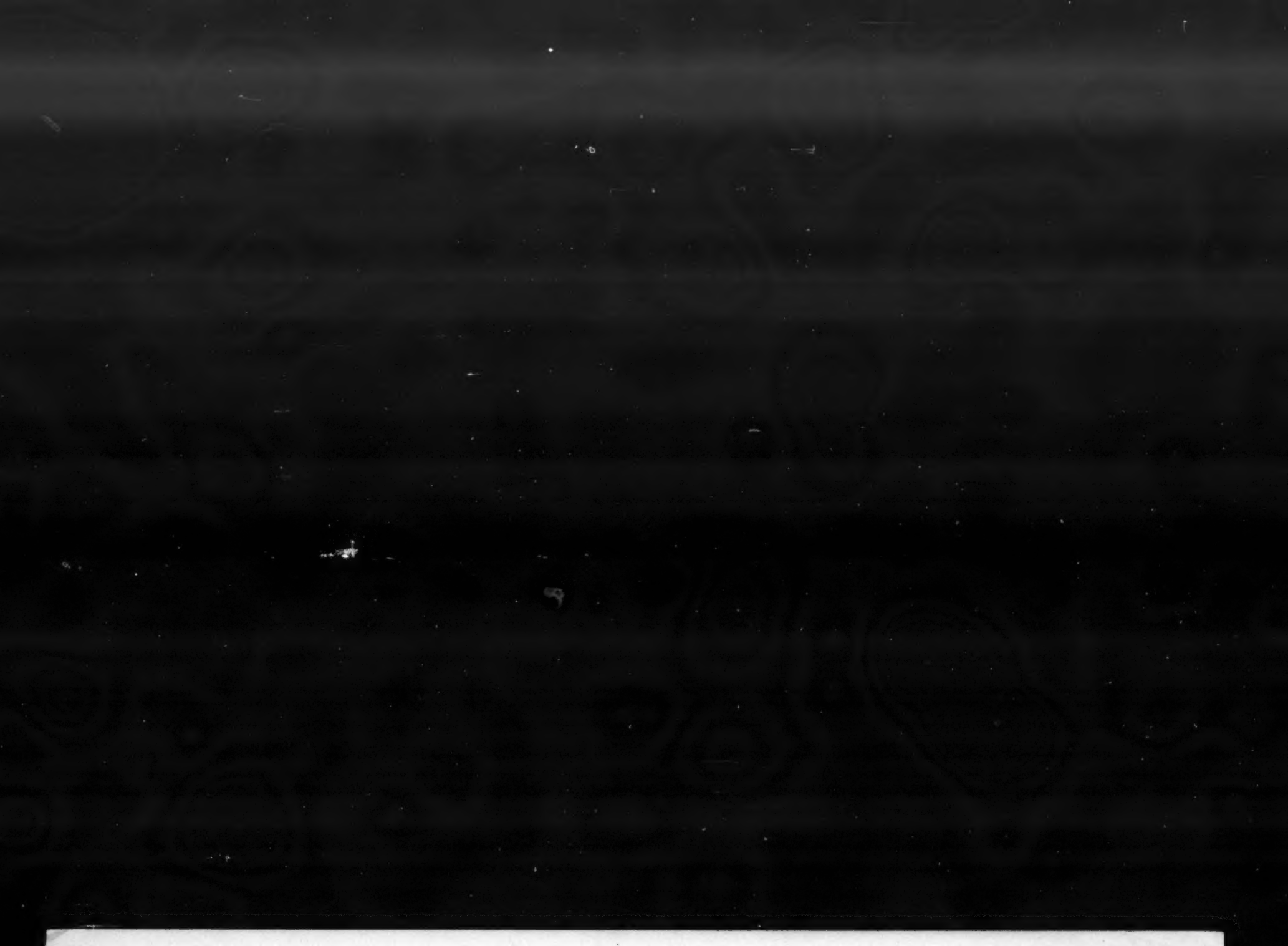
No doubt a few reluctant or disloyal conscripts took refuge behind a conscience they did not possess. Some objectors, like the Children of Jehovah, made themselves widely obnoxious. Still, no one could question their sincerity. The private conscience is one of democracy's most precious possessions. Indeed, the liberty allowed it is a basic test of whether or not democracy exists in a nation.

Part of a letter discussing COs written to the editor of The Washington Post:

Whether we agree or not in regard to their stand is not the question. These men have already paid a high price for their convictions. Did we fight a war for the freedom of the human conscience, or did we not? Why, then, even after the war is over, do we continue to compel those who cannot kill to suffer from human bondage? Consider the loss to society alone. These men are not criminals. They are the healers, the leaven of society, the hope of a better world, teachers, scientists, clergymen.

From an editorial discussing COs in prison entitled "Men Who Failed Their Country" appearing in the Kansas City, Mo. Star:

Mustering public sympathy for the draft law violators will not be easy. For every conscientious objector behind bars there are thousands of well-remembered graves of American youths who died defending their country, and other thousands of disabled men in veterans' hospitals.

The attitude of the jailed men when the nation's life was threatened cannot be readily forgotten. Upon being released recently one of their number remarked that "if the Japanese had invaded America, we should have permitted them to come in as they chose."

Other conscientious objectors who may have shared this viewpoint at least gave useful service of a sort. Several volunteered for important medical experiments . . . But the men who were entirely willing to sacrifice our freedom in the name of conscience have a doubtful claim on the nations mercy. Certainly they deserve no more consideration than any other lawbreaker seeking parole or pardon.